

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 SS-20 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 EUR-25 AF-10 IO-14

/192 R

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042083

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ECON, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE ENERGY CONFERENCES

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 1037, (B) STATE 32425, (C) STATE 28119,
(D) STATE MEMCON 1/25/74, (E) STATE MEMCON 1/15/74

1. IF GOI RAISES PARTICIPATION ISSUE EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON
FOLLOWING, DESCRIBING IT AS OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING ON
MATTER.

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2. QUESTION OF ISRAEL'S ROLE IN MEETINGS STEMMING FROM

WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE IS PREMATURE. U.S. INITIALLY SOUGHT TO LIMIT NUMBER PARTICIPANTS AT WASHINGTON CONFERENCE TO ENHANCE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS. WE ENVISAGE BROADENING CONSULTATIONS WHEN APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE OTHERS, E.G., PRODUCERS AND LDCS. DEPT PRESENTLY OCCUPIED WITH ARRANGEMENTS BEING WORKED OUT BY ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP FOR EVENTUAL CONFERENCE OF CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS NOT LATER THAN MID-YEAR. STILL UNCLEAR WHAT WILL DEVELOP ON SUBJECT OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO ISRAEL.

3. OUR INITIAL THINKING, PROMPTED BY REFTTEL (A), IS THAT ISSUE OF ISRAEL'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ENERGY MEETINGS IS SEPARABLE FROM ISRAEL'S OBJECTIVES IN ENERGY CRISIS. FROM CONVERSATIONS DEPT OFFICERS HAD WITH DINSTEIN AND SHER IN JANUARY (REFS D AND E) ISRAEL DESIRES ACCESS TO

INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ENERGY RESEARCH EXCHANGED THROUGH MACHINERY SET UP BY CONFERENCE AND IS INTERESTED IN OIL SUPPLY PROBLEMS AND PRICING. DEPT AWARE OF ISRAEL'S INTERESTS AND DOES NOT RPT NOT FORESEE ISRAEL'S EXCLUSION FROM "DIALOGUE" ON ENERGY ISSUES. DEPT DESIRES KEEP ACTION COMMITTEES ON WORKING LEVEL AS SMALL AND MANAGEABLE AS POSSIBLE. SELECTION OF COUNTRIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS SHOULD BE DETERMINED WITH EYE TO EFFICIENCY IN PRODUCING WORKABLE PLANS. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS INCLUSION OF ISRAEL WOULD COMPLICATE WORK OF MEETINGS BY INTRODUCING POLITICAL SIDE ISSUE OF ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT.

4. OUR PRESENT THINKING IS THAT COOPERATION IN ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MAY INCLUDE INFORMATION EXCHANGE, AND JOINT ACTIVITIES WHERE APPROPRIATE. CO-OPERATION IS PREDICATED OF COURSE ON MUTUAL BENEFIT. IN THIS CONTEXT, SHER HAS FREQUENTLY INDICATED GOI TO SOME DEGREE CONCERNED WITH PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT FOR NEW IMMIGRANT SCIENTISTS FROM SOVIET UNION AND WOULD WELCOME R/D FINANCING FROM ABROAD TO ASSIST IN THIS END. DEPT VIEW, HOWEVER, IS THAT ENERGY AND OTHER COOPERATIVE R/D ACTIVITIES MUST BE DEVELOPED ON OWN MERITS. ALSO,
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ALTHOUGH DEPT AWARE OF ISRAEL'S R/D CAPABILITIES AND MUCH OF WHAT ISRAEL HAS DONE IN FIELDS LIKE SOLAR ENERGY, AND WE FEEL ISRAEL'S CAPABILITIES WOULD BE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE, CAPABILITIES OF ALL COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN RESEARCH COOPERATION IN A GIVEN AREA WOULD BE CONSIDERED BEFORE DECIDING ON PARTNERS IN COMPETITIVE SITUATION. MULTILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN PARTICULAR AREA ALSO POSSIBLE.

5. FYI. ISRAELI EMBOFF HAS MET WITH DEPTOFF ON REGULAR

BASIS FOR DISCUSSION OF ENERGY ISSUES. CASEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, EMBARGOES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE042083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCI/SA:AERICHMOND:SKG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740372/aaaacpcp.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) TEL AVIV 1037, (B) STATE 32425,, (C) STATE 28119
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <09 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE ENERGY CONFERENCES
TAGS: ENRG, ECON, IS, US
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005